

City of Charleston
Traffic & Street Name Sign Standards

- Traffic signs should be designed and placed in accordance with the latest revision of the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD), published by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Non-traffic related signs should be approved by the Department of Traffic and Transportation.
- Regulatory, warning, and guide signs shall be fabricated with ASTM International, formerly American Society for Testing and Materials, Type III (High Intensity) or greater retroreflective sheeting. Upon approval by the Department of Traffic and Transportation parking signs and non-traffic related signs may be fabricated with ASTM Type I (Engineer Grade) or greater material.
- Street name signs shall be fabricated using extruded aluminum blades 9" in height. The minimum length is 24" with 48" as the maximum. The actual length of the blade will be dictated by the number of letters in the name.
- The street name color scheme should be white ASTM Type III lettering on a green background.
- The street name letter font (or typeface) should be FHWA Series "C"; commonly known as Highway Gothic "C".
- All street names are to consist of 6" upper-case letters with 4.5" lower-case letters. The street designations, e.g., St, Rd, Dr, Cir, Pkwy, Ave, Blvd are to be 50% superscript.
- The street name, including the superscript designation, shall be centered vertically and horizontally on the blade.
- The spacing from the blade edge to the beginning and end of the street name, including the superscript designation, should be a minimum of 2".
- Street name signs should be mounted with a vertical clearance of at least 8' measured from the bottom of the sign to the near edge of the pavement. All other signs shall be mounted at least 7' from the bottom of the sign to the near edge of the pavement, except when a supplemental plaque or secondary sign is permitted.
- If a supplemental plaque or secondary sign is permitted to be mounted on the same assembly as another sign, the major (most important) sign shall be installed above the supplemental plaque or secondary sign. The minimum height from the bottom of the supplemental plaque or secondary sign to the near edge of the pavement shall be 6'.
- The minimum lateral offset for installed signs should be 2' measured from the nearest sign edge to the pavement edge (or the face of curb). A minimum offset of 1' from the face of the curb may be used in areas where sidewalk width is limited or where existing poles are close to the curb.
- All traffic sign posts should be securely installed at least 2' in the ground. Traffic sign posts should be green, 3 lbs/ft steel U-channel posts, breakaway, and 12' in length except for street name sign posts.
- All street name posts should be round, 2 3/8" OD, breakaway, aluminum or steel, and at least 10' in length.